



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

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EA OR120-04-05

### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) For Down Log Relocation Environmental Assessment EA#OR-120-04-05**

#### **I. Introduction**

The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District (BLM), has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzed potential impacts of relocating down logs unavailable for salvage for the benefit of aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats.

The purpose of the proposed actions is to restore, enhance, and maintain ecological functions and biological productivity on the Coos Bay District by restoring key habitat components currently lacking across the landscape.

The EA evaluates the environmental elements impacted by the relocation prescriptions and the benefits expected to be derived from implementing the proposed action. The EA also describes the project design features that will be incorporated in order to minimize the potential for adverse environmental harm to occur during the projects.

#### **II. Background**

The Coos Bay District (CBD) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is under the direction of the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan* (RMP) and *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) and its Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM, 1995). The RMP and its' ROD are in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and its ROD (Northwest Forest Plan [NWFP]) (Interagency, 1994). Through these documents, the BLM, in conjunction with other Federal land agencies, is directed to conduct watershed analysis (WA), and to implement restoration projects to aid in the recovery of water quality and aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial habitats.

As stated in the ROD for the NWFP, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) was developed to maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems on public lands within the range of Pacific Ocean anadromy. The Environmental Consequences section of the EA describes the consistency of the proposed alternative with the ACS.

All Federal agencies are charged with managing programs to enhance the recovery of federally listed endangered and threatened species and their habitats (Section 7(a) (1) of the Endangered Species Act). Implementing the proposed actions is expected to benefit numerous Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species.

### **III. Finding of No Significant Impact**

A careful review of the EA, which I herein adopt, indicates that there will not be a significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of any of the Action Alternatives. I agree with this conclusion and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This determination is based on consideration of the following factors:

1. The proposed activities will occur in localized areas within the boundaries of the Coos Bay District. The proposed activities are not national or regional in scope.
2. The proposed activities will not significantly affect public health and safety. Best Management Practices incorporating spill kits and containment plans as described in the EA will minimize the risk to Water quality. In addition, notifications in the event of a release threatening waterways are to be made in accordance with the BLM Coos Bay District Riparian Spill Plan, and Oregon DEQ Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-108, *Oil and Hazardous Materials Spills and Releases*.
3. The proposed activities will not have an impact on unique characteristics of the geographic area such as energy development, air quality, prime unique farmlands, environmental justice/native American trust resources, wild & scenic rivers/wilderness, or special status areas. The project areas are located at previously disturbed sites, and the relocation prescriptions will restore the natural physical environment. Implementation of specific project design features will ensure that there will be no additional impacts to Port-Orford-Cedar.
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment of the proposed activities are not highly controversial.
5. The possible effects of the proposed activities on the quality of the human environment are not highly uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risk.
6. The proposed projects do not establish a precedent for actions with future significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7. There are no significant cumulative effects identified by this assessment.
8. The proposed activities will not affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Nor will they cause a loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. The proposed projects will fully comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended.

Currently, the Coos Bay District BLM is re-consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding disturbance and disturbance distances to the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet for a variety of forest management projects. Relocation of down wood typically meets criteria for low disturbance projects and the recommendations in the BO will be applied to projects developed in this EA. The recommendations for seasonal restrictions in the forthcoming BO are hereby incorporated as design features by reference.

On October 18, 2002, the Coos Bay District, BLM received a Programmatic Biological Opinion from NOAA Fisheries authorizing certain “Likely to Adversely Affect” and “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” activities (2002/00879) affecting Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho Salmon, Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, and Oregon Coast Steelhead. In-stream log relocation would fall under these categories. Upland activities, out of Riparian Reserves, would be “No Effect” activities.

10. There are no irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments identified by this assessment, except for a minor consumption of fossil fuels for routine operations.
11. The proposed activities will not violate Federal, State, or local laws imposed for the protection of the environment.

/s/ Mark E. Johnson  
for Sue E. Richardson  
District Manager

March 9, 2004  
Date